



NEWS RELEASE

Matthew D. Orwig
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 25, 2006

Contact: John Ratcliffe
First Assistant US Attorney
(972) 509-1201

GREGG COUNTY MEN ADMIT TO DEALING METH

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that two Gregg County men have pleaded guilty to federal drug and firearms violation charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **GERALD LYNN STILES II**, 37, from Longview, and **MICHAEL SHANE BELL**, 33, from Big Sandy, admitted to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine before United States Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

According to information presented in court, an investigation began in January 2003 into the distribution of "ice" methamphetamine in East Texas. During this time, the investigation resulted in the arrest of 20 individuals. A 36-count federal indictment was returned in May charging Stiles and Bell and 18 co-defendants with federal charges.

At sentencing, Stiles faces 5 to 40 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$2 million. Bell faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a fine up to \$1 million. Each Defendant also faces an additional 5 years for the firearms charge and has agreed to forfeit all handguns. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives,

the Gregg County Sheriff's Office and the Gregg County CODE Unit. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Moore.

###